

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA T	FORM NO. 572
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Barn = 613



wn Lexington

dress 187 Spring Street

storic Name Parker Homestead

e: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

te c. 1843

Proceedings of the Lexington

Source Historical Society II (1900):102

Style Vernacular *Greek Revival (altered)*

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings garage (20th C.); barn

(second half 19th C.); "milk house"

Major alterations (with dates) three-bay
ell with gable roof on south end (before
1880s); dormers on original house and ell,
south two-story addition, north porch, entry
(all since 1905)

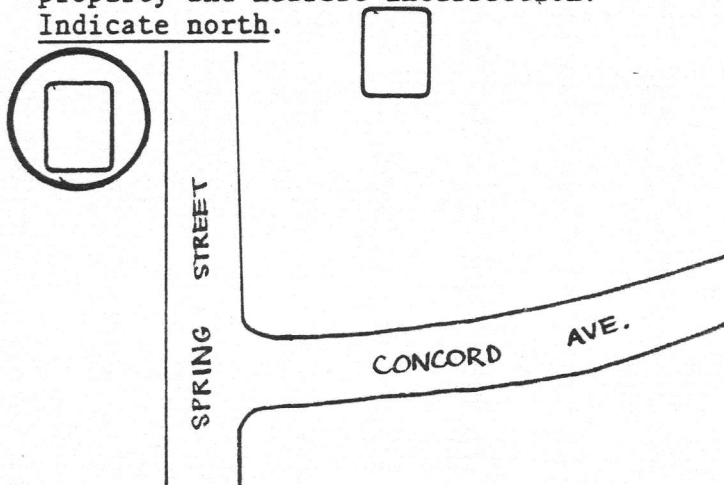
Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 3.4 A.

Setting On busy street across from 1960s
houses; backs onto wooded hill.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation
to nearest cross streets and/or
geographical features. Indicate
all buildings between inventoried
property and nearest intersection.
Indicate north.



Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date February, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This 1840s one-and-a-half story cottage set with its gable end perpendicular to the street has been all but obscured by subsequent additions. Nonetheless, its original five-bay wide, two-bay deep profile and gable roof are still discernible. This property also has a history of many outbuildings, of which those remaining are a large, five by three bay barn with butted rafters and a ventilating cupola, thus probably dating it in the second half of the nineteenth century, and a small fieldstone house, known as the "milk house," immediately northwest of the barn and perhaps built in the twentieth century.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

A signboard hanging from a tree next to the driveway reads, "The Parker Homestead. Here lived John Parker, born July 15, 1729, died Sept 17, 1775, Captain, Lexington Minute Men, and his grandson Theodore Parker, born Aug. 24, 1810, died at Florence, Italy, May 10, 1860," and this says it all in terms of historical significance of the site. Both Captain John of April 19, 1775 fame and his famous grandson, the transcendentalist, reformer, and abolitionist, lived, however, in the original Parker homestead, which was taken down in 1843 and whose foundation is under the Parker monument north of the house (see Parker monument and Historic Archaeologic Site forms).

This house, however, was built soon after the other one was taken down by Isaac Parker (1798-1872), a brother of Theodore. He was a farmer, a selectman for four years between 1846 and 1850, and reportedly very interested in the public schools. After his death the farm was owned by his sons Charles M. (1835- ?) and Theodore J. Parker (1841-1892); the former served in the Civil War and was a selectman in 1872. By 1906 the farm had passed out of the Parker family and was owned by John B. Quinn, the owner of the Hotel Essex, Boston.

As for the house itself, its history is certainly one of change. An 1880s painting in the Lexington Historical Society and a c. 1905 photo in the Parker house both show that before the latter date it was a five-by-two bay one-and-a-half story cottage with two dormers in front, two thin rear chimneys, and a three-by-two bay, one-and-a-half story, gable-roofed ell on the south

(see Continuation Sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington II, pp. 512, 515-517.
Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1913.

Lexington Historical Society Archives

Smith, A. Bradford. "Kite End"(1891). Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society II(1900):101-103.

1906 map

1906 Directory

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Lexington

Form No:

572

Property Name: 187 Spring Street

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

end. Thus, all the additional alterations have been made since 1905: the sunporch on the north, the extended dormers on both the front and back of the original house, the entry and the three-sided bay window, the dormers on the first ell, and a large two-story addition on the south side of this ell. There have also been many modifications to outbuildings: a fieldstone garage built in the twentieth century and connected to the house with a trellised walkway; a silo, now gone, on the northwest corner of the barn; a cemented cistern, no longer in use, on the hill above the barn; and two discontinued wells, one in front of the house (see photo) and one to the north of the Parker monument. A barn immediately west of the house burned but its foundation is clearly visible.



#613

Staple to Inventory form at bottom